

How can a few days in another culture transform us?

Learn more about how globalization, economic policies, and the church impact the life of the people in the Philippines. Hear about the experiences of the delegates who went on the Philippine Immersion Trip.

April 2 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at United Seminary

Thirteen days, thousands of miles away, and immersion into another culture. And the results? “They got it. Transformation happened. “That was the comment by Dr. Eleazar Fernandez, Professor of Constructive Theology at United Theological Seminary following the Philippines Immersion Trip. From January 12 through January 25 twelve delegates from the Minnesota Conference of the UCC and students from United Theological Seminary traveled in the Philippines. Most of the time was spent in Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines and in the southeast of the archipelago.

Come to a presentation at United Theological Seminary on Saturday, April 2 from 10:00am-2:00pm. Members of the delegation will share their experiences – their “it” moments and time for questions and suggestions for what local congregations and individuals can do to sustain the momentum started with this trip. There will be a shared-cost Philippine lunch available.

More information can be found about the trip and delegates experiences on their blog: <http://utsphilippines.wordpress.com>.

A brief history of the Minnesota Conference/SEMJUR partnership

The partnership started in 1986 under the umbrella of the Stewardship/OCWM Committee. The Board of Directors approved a “Partner in Mission” relationship with the Mindanao Jurisdiction with the stated purpose to “raise the consciousness of our churches and members about life and ministry in third world situations; to give locals churches opportunities to have

personalized relationships with local overseas congregations; and to exchange leaders between the two churches.”

In 1992 a proposed covenant was proposed to the Annual Meeting and with several amendments, was approved as a working draft and a Philippine Task Force created. Little else happened until 1997 when the Rev. Eleazar Fernandez began leading immersion trips.

In 2009 the Philippine Task Force became part of the Conference Global Partnership Team. A renewed partnership statement was presented and officially endorsed at the 2010 Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting.

The Global Partnership Team also maintains communication and support with two missionary families with Minnesota Conference connections.

Tom and Monica Liddle are members of Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth, Minnesota. They serve with Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL). Monica works as a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) in Immanuel Clinic Lospalos, which is run by the FUSONA, the relief and development wing of the IPTL. Monica's appointment is supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Tom serves as an English teacher and works as a facilitator in the IPTL's program for strengthening congregations and continuing education of pastors. Updates from the Liddles are available on the Peace Website, www.peaceucc.org

Maryjane and Don Westra, are members of Federated Church UCC, Fergus Falls, Minnesota. They serve the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. Maryjane works as a health and child care consultant at Mt. Selinda. Don works on the staff of the Micro-Enterprise and Strategic Planning/Management program at Mt Selinda. We will post updates from the Westras on the Conference website under the Ministry Groups tab and select Global Partnership Team on the left.